



PRESS RELEASE

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

Nueva Maravilla in East Los Angeles has Undergone Significant Renovations to Make it a Sustainable Community



July 23, 2013 - The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) was recently honored by two national organizations for the energy efficiency upgrades made at the Nueva Maravilla public housing development in East Los Angeles. HACoLA proudly accepted a 2013 Achievement Award for its project *“Nueva Maravilla- A Green Community”* from the National Association of Counties (NACo), and an Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). HACoLA was recognized for its continued work in local government to promote the betterment of county services and programs.

The original Nueva Maravilla public housing development was built in the late 1930's and re-built in the 1970's when concepts of energy and water conservation were not incorporated into building design. Increasing energy and water costs and diminishing federal and local funding, combined with the implementation of local green ordinances and

initiatives, provided the impetus to replace the energy and water systems at Nueva Maravilla with state of the art infrastructure designed for conservation.

In 2009, HACoLA inserted the first shovel into the ground, and completed its upgrades in 2012. HACoLA used a combination of Federal funds, grants, and rebates to install solar panels, energy efficient exterior lighting, condensing water heaters, solar thermal water heaters, plumbing fixtures, and xeriscaping measures. The electrical master meter was also replaced with individual meters in each of the family units.

Photovoltaic solar panels were the first to be installed at a public housing development in Los Angeles County, and have resulted in a 50% reduction in common area electricity costs. Additionally through the partnership established with Southern California Edison (SCE) during the project, each Nueva Maravilla family has been enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program, allowing them to secure a 20% discount on their electric bill. Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director, said, “We took this opportunity to go beyond standard maintenance upgrades, and implemented sustainable practices which benefit the agency, the residents, and the environment. I am honored to have our efforts recognized by two prestigious organizations such as NACo and NAHRO, and hope we inspire other housing agencies to make similar strides.”



The sustainable upgrades at Maravilla have saved HACoLA over \$300,000 in electricity, natural gas, and water costs in the first year alone; and will save over \$5 million dollars in the next fifteen years. As a result, HACoLA intends to continue similar upgrades at its other housing developments.

For more information on HACoLA's Public Housing Program, please call (626) 262-4510. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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